19.   A computer program according to claim 17, further comprising instructions effective to program a PC card with an identifier corresponding to an audio signal indicative of a waiting call.

20.   A database comprising a plurality of signal identifiers, each signal identifier being characteristic of a call waiting signal generated by a public switched telephone network (PSTN) exchange and enabling a match to be made between said identifier and an incoming telephony signal to a computer connected to said exchange.

21.   A method of alerting a user of a computer to a waiting call available from a telephony connection to which the computer is connected, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   monitoring a telephony input signal to the computer during a data transfer between the computer and a telephony connection;

b)   detecting a signal indicative of a waiting call available from said telephony connection; and

c)   upon detection of a signal indicative of a waiting call, generating an alert to a user via an output device of the computer.

22.   A method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of providing a user of the computer with an option to terminate or place on hold said existing data session.

23.   A telecommunications system comprising a connection to a telephony network, a computer system connected to said connection and a telephony terminal connected to said connection, wherein the computer system comprises:

a)   a port for said telephony connection;

b)   a processor;

c)   a telecommunications manager for managing the transfer of data between the processor and the port;

d)   a user interface connected to the processor comprising at least an output device capable of issuing an alert to a user;

e)   a tone detector connected to the port, said tone detector comprising an input for receiving a signal from the telephony connection and a discriminator for identifying a signal indicative of a waiting call; and

f)   an alert generator connected to the tone detector and configured to alert a user of the

5   computer via said interface that a call waiting signal has been detected;

whereby upon said alert being generated, the waiting call can be taken at said telephony terminal.

24.   A telecommunications network comprising a plurality of interconnected exchanges, at least one of said exchanges including a call waiting signal generator for generating a call

10   waiting signal when a call is placed to an endpoint at which an existing call is in progress, and an endpoint connected to said one of said exchanges, said endpoint comprising a computer system connected to said exchange and a telephony terminal connected to said exchange, wherein the computer system comprises:

a)   a port for connection to the exchange;

15   b)   a processor;

c)   a telecommunications manager for managing the transfer of data between the processor and the port;

d)   a user interface connected to the processor comprising at least an output device capable of issuing an alert to a user;

20   e)   a tone detector connected to the port, said tone detector comprising an input for receiving a signal from the telephony connection and a discriminator for identifying a signal indicative of a waiting call; and

f)   an alert generator connected to the tone detector and configured to alert a user of the computer via said interface that a call waiting signal has been detected;

25   whereby upon said alert being generated, the waiting call can be taken at said telephony terminal.

25.   A telecommunications network according to claim 26, wherein said computer further comprises a call control signal generator for outputting a call control signal to said exchange, and wherein said exchange further includes a call manager responsive to said call control signal to control the handling of said waiting call and/or said data session.

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